

## IN A LUCIFER-MATCH FACTORY.

## The Dreadfully Disfiguring Disease Which Attacks the Employees.

It certainly is unfortunate that an invention which has been so valuable to the household and, indeed, in all cases where a ready light is desirable, should bring into the world with it so much disease. The makers of lucifer matches, large numbers of whom reside in Vienna, were some years ago attacked with a most singular disease—the rotting away of the jaw-bone. Together with this ugly and most disfiguring complaint there were always constitutional symptoms present which denoted the presence of poison in the blood. After a careful inquiry the cause of these singular attacks was traced to the phosphorus employed in making the matches. How it could attack the bone was at first a puzzle to the physicians, but it was at length discovered that the poisonous fumes gained admission to the bone by means of decayed teeth.

Some of the German governments endeavored to meet the difficulty by examining the mouths of all persons employed in lucifer match factories, and dismissing from employment any artisan who had unsound teeth. This, to a certain extent, met the case; but inasmuch as it is impossible to give every workman a clean bill of health with respect to his morals the remedy, or rather the preventive, was not thorough. Some twenty years ago the disease also appeared in New Haven, and a medical expert was instructed to investigate the matter. After making a careful inquiry he discovered, out of fifty-nine patients, fifteen died, and the others were greatly disfigured by the destruction of the upper or lower jaw; in some cases both. It is impossible to picture a more disfiguring disease, or one which leads to greater discomfort, inasmuch as in many cases the speech is destroyed and also the process of mastication.

The only effectual method of obliterating the disease is to get rid of the phosphorus, or of so altering its character as to deprive its fumes of their deadly virulence. The common sporting match is the greatest offender in this particular inasmuch as it contains the most phosphorus. Those matches made of amorphous phosphorus, or phosphorus baked for a certain period of time, are believed to be harmless. Many attempts have been made to produce matches from this substance in connection with chlorate of potash, and at last with success. The combination, however, only takes place in the act of striking the light, the utmost danger existing in any attempt to combine them permanently together. The safety match is made principally of chlorate of potash, mixed with black oxide of manganese, red lead, sulphuret of antimony and glue, while the amorphous phosphorus is placed upon the box instead of the ordinary sand-paper, and the contact of the two materials produces the light.

It is unfortunate that a light can only be produced with the box, as workmen do not care to be troubled by carrying one about. Until this difficulty is got over, this excellent invention, calculated to get rid of a most distressing disease, will only be used in the household, the ordinary match that will strike against any rough surface possessing advantages over it which the rough and thoughtless will demand. It is quite clear, however, that for all domestic purposes, the old match ought to be given up.—Brooklyn Eagle.

## Several Remedies for Stuttering.

Stuttering is one of the most distressing of vocal defects, and it is a little singular that many parents think it a misfortune that is not susceptible of correction. It is not necessary to confine the stutterer in a cave for years and compel him to place pebbles in his mouth after the manner of Demosthenes. Syllabic accentuation, preserving the continuity of sound while beating time, is a simpler method, and has proved successful in the case of Dr. Hammond and others. Another method is to take long breath, and then to close the teeth and speak between the closed teeth, allowing the air to pass out slowly. It is said that two weeks' practice of this experiment will effect an improvement. It will not be necessary afterward to keep the teeth closed all the time when speaking, but a long inspiration should always be taken, the air being expelled slowly.—Courier-Journal.

## Musical Publishers and Amateurs.

Music publishers, equally with book publishers, have large dealings with amateurs, that is to say, with people who have written songs as a diversion, and are determined to have them published at all hazards. And music publishers tell some very funny stories about such experiences. One funny story they do not tell either with frequency or gusto. In several cases amateurs who have published songs on their own account have stumbled upon successes, and, of course, have pocketed all the profits. This contingency is now provided against by publishers requiring that the amateur songwriter shall buy a sufficient number of his songs at the retail price to cover the cost of publication. Thereafter the publisher pays the amateur a royalty on every copy sold, just as though he were a professional.—New York Mail and Express.

## Experiment on a Frog's Muscles.

If we place a drop of acid on the skin of the lumbar region of a decapitated frog, we immediately see the foot on the corresponding side lifted to scratch it and rub the spot irritated by the acid. Is we repeat the experiment after having amputated the foot, the application of the acid puts the frog into an evident state of agitation. It makes fruitless efforts with the stump, hesitates, stops, seems to reflect and ends by employing the other foot to wipe off the acid.—Journal of Mental Science.

## What a Naturalist Has Noticed.

Scorpions, spiders and various insects have been observed to lie motionless if a person blows upon them in a vertical direction.

## A Parisian Millionaire's Bed.

A Parisian millionaire, M. Lang, has recently had made for him a wonderful bed, which is certainly one of the most luxurious pieces of furniture we have yet heard of. If only it could become universal, what a boon it would be to early risers! The description makes one envy the unfortunate possessor. The bed itself is a model of comfort; and the following devices have been adopted to render rising from it as little unpleasant as possible. When it is time to get up, a chime of bells rings. The occupant continues to sleep.

Suddenly a candle is lit by a clever mechanical arrangement. The sleeper rubs his eyes, and an invisible hand proceeds to divest him of his nightcap. By means of electricity a spirit-lamp with coffee-roasting apparatus affixed next begins to burn. The water soon boils, and the smell of coffee soon fills the room with delicious fragrance. Luxuriously reclining in a crowd of agreeable sensations, the occupant, now just beginning to awake, is soothed by sounds proceeding from a costly musical box. At length the bells ring out another merry peal, and at the foot of the bed a card with "Levez-vous" ("Get up") inscribed on it appears. If this invention is without effect a powerful mechanism lifts the occupant bodily from his bed and deposits him on the floor.—Chicago Tribune.

## A Valuable Industry in Feathers.

Quite a valuable industry is now carried on in France in the utilization of the various kinds of feathers formerly treated as worthless, especially those of wild fowl and other birds killed as game. The plan pursued consists of trimming these, particularly the larger ones off the stump, which may be thrown away, the plumes being then made use of in the manufacture of a feather cloth or blanket which possesses the essential quality of being exceedingly light and at the same time very warm.

The plumes which are separated from the stalk are placed in a bag, closed tightly, and then subjected to rubbing between the hands, as in washing clothes. In a few minutes the fibers are by this means separated from each other, and form a perfectly homogeneous and very light down, applicable by simple operation to the production of quite a variety of coverings and other household objects at a reasonable cost.—Chicago Herald.

## An Artist's Terms Too High.

The art class in Portland sketch with charcoal from casts and living models. They are not sufficiently advanced to do anything with the nude yet. They pick up men and boys with strong or peculiar faces and women and girls of striking types. They drape them in such costumes as fancy may dictate or they may sketch the heads, only.

"Do your models like to stand all the afternoon and be stared at?" I asked the young lady drawing the legs of the Discobolus.

"O yes!—for 50 cents," she dryly replied, looking up for a moment. She added: "I made a proposition to a funny looking Irishman to come in and be drawn on those terms the other day. 'It's too dear, mum,' said he. 'I kin get me tintype tuk for less money.'"—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

## The Peculiarities of the Flounder.

The flounder or flat-fish, when first hatched, has eyes placed like those of other fish. Soon one eye begins to move down nearer the mouth and over to the other side of the head, until finally both eyes are on the same side, usually the right. The flounder lies on its side, partly to escape its enemies, which it does by burying itself in the sand, and partly because it has no air-bladder and its fins are imperfectly developed.—Detroit Free Press.

## The Weather Vanes on Churches.

The weather vanes on some churches are in the form of a cock, emblematic of the scriptural cock which crew twice before the denial of our Lord by the Apostle Peter. The placing of such vanes was by a papal enactment of the ninth century. They are found but rarely in America, new and artistic designs ornamenting the steeples of almost all modern churches. In France they are especially numerous.—Detroit Free Press.

## And Mind the Little Things.

Springs are little things, but they are sources of large streams; a helm is a little thing, but it governs the course of a ship; a bridle is a little thing, but we know its use and power; nails and pegs are little things, but they hold the parts of a large building together; a word, a look, a smile, a frown, are little things, but powerful for good or evil. Think of this, and mind the little things.—North Carolina Mirror.

## Domestic Were-Wolves in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan shepherds keep dogs that make their pasture-grounds unapproachable to strangers. They are perfect beasts of prey, ready to tear a man on the slightest provocation, but charging wolves and leopards with the same reckless courage. Game is so plentiful in the uplands that the rangers have no difficulty in providing food for a dozen of such trained were-wolves.—Cor. Chicago Times.

## Safe Distribution of Natural Gas.

A patent for the safe distribution of natural gas throughout the various mains has been granted to a Pittsburg, Pa. It covers the process of mixing air with gas in such proportions that, while the danger of explosion is taken away, all the heating qualities still remain. The patent is expected to revolutionize the use of natural gas.—Chicago Tribune.

## The Three Tests of Ship Anchors.

Ship anchors are carefully tested before admitted to use on English vessels. Two of the three tests of the ductibility, contraction of area, elongation and bending must be satisfactory, or the anchor will be rejected.

There are few if any original sayings. What we imagine so are often but an improvement upon ancient phrases—not always that.—Jud Lafagan in Chicago Ledger.

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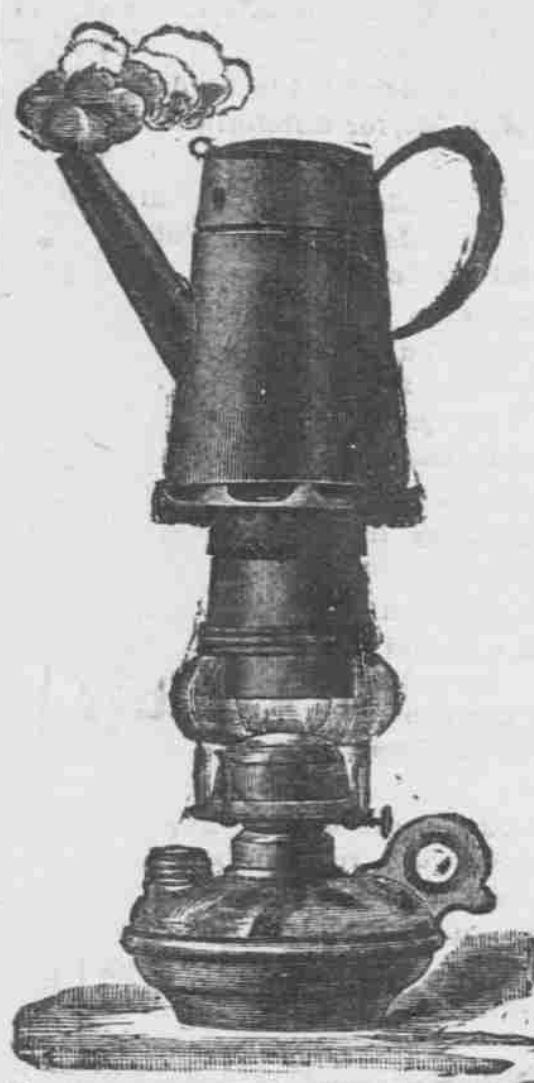
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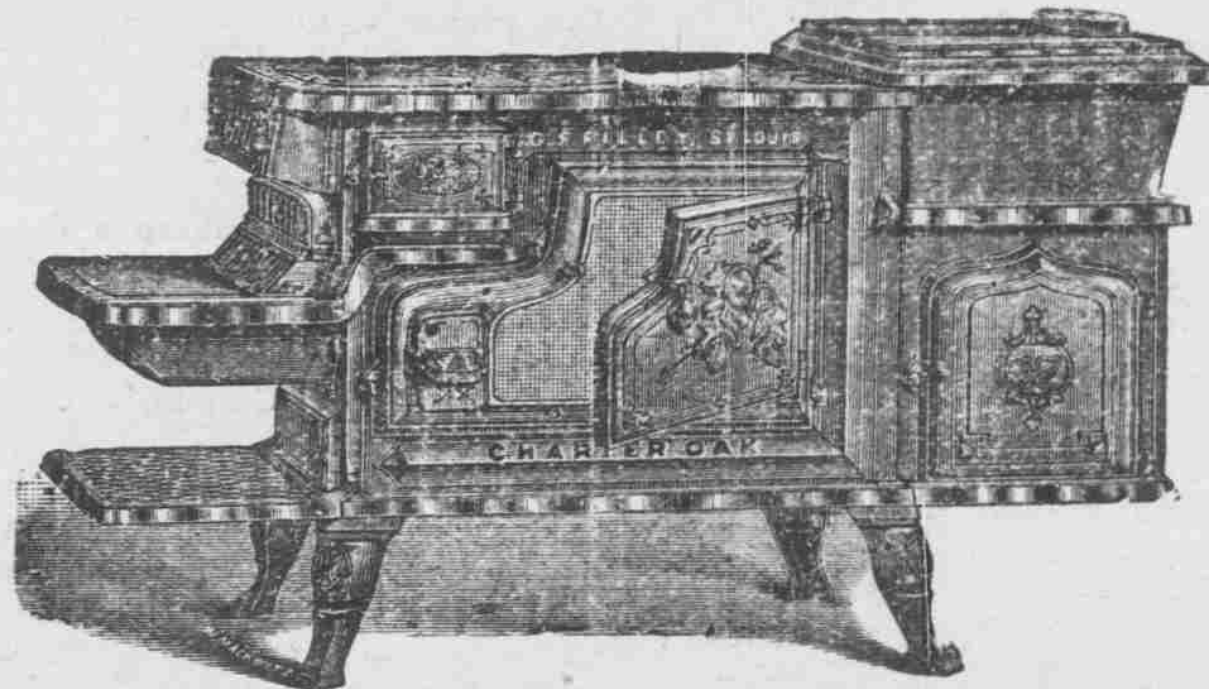
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